

Are you a community looking to revitalize and preserve your downtown district?



The Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC) offers the Kansas Main Street Program, which is a self-help, technical assistance program that targets revitalization and preservation of downtown districts through the development of a comprehensive strategy. The historic preservation-based strategy is based on organization, design, promotion, and economic vitality. Kansas communities interested in learning more about how to revitalize their downtown are encouraged to sign up as Affiliate Communities.

The Kansas Main Street Affiliate Communities Program was created to bring successful downtown revitalization tools to more Kansas communities. Affiliate Communities can attend the same quarterly trainings normally reserved for Designated Kansas Main Street communities. Anyone – including individuals, businesses and civic organizations – may join the Affiliate Program by clicking here to register. Once the form is filled out, you will have the option to submit payment online or by mail. For more information, please email Scott.Sewell@ks.gov.

Communities may be able to use local American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to implement downtown revitalization projects and strategies. According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (LFRF) dollars may be eligible to support strategies that support their efforts to revitalize and improve their downtown (see FAQs 2.9 and 2.18):

- Aid to tourism, travel, and hospitality industries in response to negative economic impacts of the pandemic
- Investments in parks, public plazas, and other outdoor recreation spaces
- Assistance to small businesses, which could include enhancing outdoor spaces for COVID-19 mitigation (e.g., restaurant patios) or improving the built environment of the neighborhood (e.g., façade improvements)

Communities should work with their city and county governments to determine local ARPA funds available for these projects. The Kansas Main Street Program is not directly distributing ARPA funds to communities but is willing to help guide you and offer assistance about how you can use ARPA funds.

Examples of potential projects include (potential ARPA eligibility met):

Restorations of retail and office spaces (improving the built environment of the neighborhood)

Providing funds for small businesses to support their downtown marketing and promotional initiatives (assistance to small businesses)

Construction of town squares or public outdoor gathering spaces in downtown districts (investments in public plazas)

Promotion of gift certificate program for local shops to encourage tourism and shopping at local businesses (aid to tourism and small businesses)

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For questions about ARPA, please contact the Kansas Office of Recovery here.

